

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF CAREER EDUCATION
9:30 a.m.

April 1, 2010

The State Board of Career Education (SBCE) was called to order by Vice Chairman Phil Taylor. The meeting was held at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 525 W. Capitol, Little Rock.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Phil Taylor, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Richard Smith
Mrs. Lucy Ralston
Mrs. Martha Dixon
Mr. John Riggs
Dr. Thomas Flowers

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members
Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Ex-Officio Secretary

ABSENT

Mr. Jack Justus, Chairman

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members
Dr. Tom Kimbrell
Dr. Jim Purcell

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2010

On motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the minutes of February 4, 2010.

B. ACTION ITEM – NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A POSTSECONDARY COLLISION REPAIR PROGRAM FOR THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY

Ms. Sandra Porter, associate director of workforce training, recommended that the State Board of Career Education approve the proposal of a collision repair program at Northwest Technical Institute.

Ms. Porter informed the board members that the number of motor vehicles increases as the population increases. The need for qualified collision repair technicians to repair these vehicles has risen exponentially along with the growth in population.

Ms. Porter introduced Mr. Eddie Guinn, director of instruction at Northwest Technical Institute, who provided the board additional information on the collision repair program.

Mr. Quinn stated that Northwest Technical Institute will utilize the certification curriculum established by Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) developed by the National Automotive Technical Education Foundation (NATEF) and I-Car. This curriculum requires 1,060 hours of class/lab instruction and prepares students for national certification by both ASE and I-Car. In addition to mastering the technical components of the course, students will be required to show competencies in computer applications, technical mathematics,

and communications. Students will also be required to successfully complete a 160-hour internship in their field.

On motion by Mr. Smith and second by Dr. Flowers, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the proposal from Northwest Technical Institute to develop and implement a postsecondary collision repair program.

C. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – CAREER AND TECHNICAL SKILL ATTAINMENT

Mr. John Davidson, deputy director of career and technical education, informed the board members that this year 78 percent of Arkansas schools will enter into improvement plans for career and technical skill attainment. This process is a required Perkins indicator, and all sanction authority rests with the State Board of Career Education under the state's Perkins IV state plan approved three years ago.

Mr. Davidson informed the board members that since 2002, the number of Arkansas secondary students completing a career pathway has increased 134 percent. Even better news is the fact that the number of those career pathway completers going to college has increased by 214 percent; the remediation rate of completers has dropped by 19 percent; and 71 percent of those completers entering college persist to their sophomore year. This persistence rate is 4.7 percent higher than the rate of all Arkansas freshmen.

Mr. Davison also informed the board members that last year, 4,259 career and technical education students who were enrolled in college-based area career centers earned a total of 28,230 concurrent college credit hours. This number reflects a 273 percent increase in college hours earned at college career centers over the last six years.

Mr. Davidson stated that to improve skill attainment there are two suggested strategies schools can adopt. The first strategy is test preparation, which consists of reviewing all objectives that fewer than 70 percent of students have passed and developing techniques to improve student learning in these targeted areas. The second strategy is technical preparation, which is a longer-term effort that emphasizes project-based instruction using learning scenarios that incorporate hands-on, real-life activities where students learn by doing, much as they would on an actual job site. In addition to the suggested strategies of test preparation and technical preparation, local schools may develop additional strategies and submit them for approval.

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – SECONDARY CENTER'S FIVE-YEAR ENROLLMENT HISTORY AND THE 2008-2009 CONCURRENT CREDIT REPORT

Ms. Porter presented the board members information on the secondary career centers.

Ms. Porter informed the board members there are 24 secondary area career centers, including 15 college centers, 7 high school centers, and 2 centers operated by educational service cooperatives (DeQueen-Mena and Arkansas River). The goal for the secondary career centers is that they offer high-skill, high-wage, high-demand programs of study that are too expensive or too time-consuming for local high schools to provide. In the 2009-10 school year, 8,846 students from 182 high schools enrolled in 67 programs of study offered by the area centers.

Ms. Porter further stated that 4,259 students earned 28,230 hours of college concurrent credit through secondary area career center courses, representing a \$1.9 million dollar value to Arkansas citizens.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES FOR PURPOSE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board Vice Chairman Phil Taylor informed the members that Chairman Jack Justus had retired from the board for health reasons. Mr. Taylor reviewed the process for election of the chairman and vice chairman. Mr. John Riggs moved that the rules be suspended in order to elect officers; Mrs. Martha Dixon seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved to suspend the rules for the purpose of election of officers.

Mr. John Riggs moved that Mr. Phil Taylor be elected chairman; Mrs. Lucy Ralston seconded the motion. Mr. Richard Smith called for a vote on the motion. Board members unanimously approved the election of Mr. Taylor as the new chairman.

Mr. Taylor informed the board that the next order of business would be to elect a vice chairman. Ms. Dixon made a motion nominating Mr. John Riggs as vice chairman, Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Mr. Taylor called for a vote on the motion, and board members unanimously approved the election of Mr. Riggs as the new vice chairman.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Walker stated that it was a sad day when he received Chairman Justus's resignation letter.

Mr. Walker informed the board members that the Department of Career Education staff would like to dedicate the conference rooms at 3 Capitol Mall and 525 W. Capitol to Mr. Justus. Each conference room will be named the Chairman Jack Justus Conference Room, and a plaque recognizing Mr. Justus's service will be placed by the entrance to each conference room.

Mr. Walker told board members that the Workforce Cabinet Directory of Services had been coordinated by the Department of Career Education as a Workforce Cabinet project.

Mr. Walker called the board members' attention to the March 2010 issue of the *Career Counselor* newsletter

The Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) Student Leadership Conference was held March 17-18, 2010. Guest speakers included Mr. Martin L. King, III, Governor Mike Beebe, and Mr. Chad Foster. Governor Beebe announced a \$420,000 grant funded jointly through the Governor's Office and the Department of Workforce Services to create a JAG internship program.

Mr. Walker informed the board that Arkansas will be one of approximately 10 states that will participate in a Southern Regional Education Board model curriculum project. Through this initiative, each state will develop a project-based program of study in a technology field, and all curricula developed through the project will be shared among all participating states. Dr. Gene Bottoms, senior vice president of the Southern Regional Education Board, met with key Arkansas educational leaders about the project, and all expressed that they were committed to Arkansas's participation.

Rodney Chandler informed the board about the Arkansas Career Training Institute's renovation project.


Mr. Walker told board members that six new positions have been approved for the Department of Career Education – 3 adult program advisors and 3 auditor positions.

Mr. Walker announced the following dates:

- Friday, April 2, 2010 – Arkansas Career Training Institute Graduation.
- Monday – Thursday, May 17-20, 2010 – Senior Management Team Retreat, Embassy Suites of Northwest Arkansas, Rogers, AR
- Tuesday, May 25, 2010 – Workforce Cabinet Cross Training, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 525 W. Capitol Avenue, LR, AR. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 3, 2010 – State Board of Career Education Meeting, Camp Couchdale.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.



William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary
State Board of Career Education



Phil Taylor, Chairman
State Board of Career Education